

**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
GLENN RESEARCH CENTER (GRC)
CLEVELAND, OHIO**

JUSTIFICATION FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

NNC07B33C

I. Description of Requirement

NASA currently has a contract NNC07CB33C with Paragon TEC, Inc. to provide overall support to the NASA Science Engineering Mathematics and Aerospace Academy (SEMAA) program. It is recommended that NASA only negotiate with Paragon TEC, Inc. to provide additional support to the SEMMA program by extending the current contract period of performance and correspondently increasing the contract value. The required contract extension is eight months at \$1.2 million. The anticipated work effort is for the current work scope including operation of the NASA SEMAA Office; monitoring and coordination of NASA SEMAA sites; Aerospace Education Lab (AEL) installation, monitoring, and storage; and creating, producing, and distributing SEMAA evaluation and reports.

The proposed extension is required due to a delay in the follow-on procurement effort entitled NASA Glenn Educational Support Services (ES2). Continuation of the SEMAA program will be included in the ES2 contract effort. However, due to delays in the award of ES2, an extension to the current contract is necessary to avoid a disruption in services provided until ES2 is awarded.

II. Statutory Basis for Other Than Full and Open Competition

The statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition is 10 U.S.C. 2304(c)(1), only one responsible source and no other supplies or services will satisfy agency requirements.

III. Rationale in Support of Statutory Authority

SEMAA is a national education project designed to increase the participation and retention of historically underserved and underrepresented K-12 youth in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). SEMAA delivers three core components: a set of hands-on, minds-on K-12 STEM curriculum enhancement activities, a state-of-the-art Aerospace Education Laboratory (AEL), and an innovative Family Café. Since its inception in 1993, SEMAA has recruited, inspired, engaged, and educated over 700,000 students, parents/caregivers, and teachers in 18 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

SEMAA has been recognized as a nationally renowned leader in the efforts to increase the participation of historically underserved K-12 youth in the areas of STEM. One of NASA's goals is to increase the number of future scientists, mathematicians, and engineers, with an emphasis on broadening the participation of historically underserved students. Due

to the success of the project and its ability to attract and retain students, the Agency has deemed it essential to meeting its goals and the goal of our Nation to improve STEM literacy.

SEMAA currently operates at 15 sites located in 14 states across the nation. Site locations include community colleges, four-year colleges/universities, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), primary/secondary schools, science centers, and museums.

The SEMAA project is NASA's longest running and premier K-12 hands-on STEM education project. Paragon TEC, Inc. has direct and sustained work experience with NASA since 1993 supporting the SEMAA project. Since 2001, the company has served as the National SEMAA Office (NSO); and has had oversight of the SEMAA sites with overall responsibility for the day-to-day operations.

By operating as the NSO, Paragon TEC's experience with and understanding of the cultural challenges associated with recruiting and retaining students from underrepresented, underserved groups with specific reference to NASA's STEM education projects is not duplicated by any other known source. This experience and understanding is essential to maintain seamless SEMAA operations as both NASA Headquarters Office of Education (OE) and GRC EPO determine the future of the program and its components.

The SEMAA project operates on a year-long schedule. SEMAA sites currently are conducting summer sessions under the auspices of Paragon TEC, Inc., which began in June 2012, and will end in August 2012. With the current contract ending July 23, 2012, it is imperative that an extension be granted to avoid a disruption to the project and the participants served.

The follow-on requirement for this effort will ultimately be incorporated into the Glenn Educational Support Services Procurement (ES2), which is now scheduled to be awarded in early 2013. Due to the uncertainty of NASA educational programs and projects, requirements for ES2 have been redefined, causing delays in the original schedule for award. The ES2 contract has been redesigned to be primarily task order rather than completion, to provide needed additional flexibility. This change is designed to enable the contract to address a wide variety of educational program operations from the Agency and/or Center. The restructuring of the Request for Proposal (RFP) delays the award of ES2 until early FY2013.

Paragon TEC, Inc., as the incumbent, has the specialized knowledge and expertise necessary to maintain the SEMAA project. Extending the current SEMAA contract for a period of eight months will provide the time required for the award of ES2. Not extending the current contract with Paragon TEC, Inc. will cause unacceptable delays in fulfilling the Agency's requirements and create limitations to obtaining important program data and reports deemed necessary for the Agency to meet its performance requirement. This procurement will be accomplished via an extension to contract NNC07CB33C with Paragon TEC, Inc.

The extension will be awarded by means of one nine-week base period and two three-month option periods. The base period will extend the contract performance through the end of FY12. Performance of the two options will occur in FY13. The length of the extension is sufficient because it will allow for a seamless transition of the SEMAA program into the resultant ES2 award.

IV. Description and Results of Market Research

In accordance with FAR 5.2, a description of this requirement was posted to the NASA Acquisition Internet Service/FedBizOpps on May 25, 2012. No companies responded to the posting.

A representative from GSA stated that there are training contractors under GSA Schedule 874, SIN 874-4 that have some experience in the arena cited in the SEMAA requirement, as GSA is working with these contractors to provide services under the Department of Defense's (DoD) STARBASE program. DoD STARBASE is an educational program sponsored by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

Based on what was provided in GSA's submission, some of the training services of the SEMAA effort could possibly be met by contractors on this GSA schedule. In addition to the training services, the SEMAA effort requires the contractor to operate and run the NASA SEMAA Office, all 15 of its sites, and all three core component programs. STARBASE is a DoD administered program that utilizes DoD volunteers to participate in the training sessions, along with contractors.

In order for an adequate determination to be deduced, a GSA competition would need to be performed; and the amount of time needed to run a successful competition for this effort is greater than the time being requested to extend the contract period. Also, given that the follow-on requirement for this effort will ultimately be incorporated into the Glenn Educational Support Services Procurement (ES2), a competition would incur unnecessary costs, impact the continuation of the SEMAA program, and prohibit a seamless transition to the new ES2 contract.

V. Determination of Fair and Reasonable Cost

A proposal was requested from Paragon TEC, Inc. and has been thoroughly evaluated. Rates have been verified based on ongoing contract information. It is anticipated that a fair and reasonable contract modification can be reached.

VI. Actions to Remove or Overcome Barriers to Competition

As stated previously, the SEMAA work effort will be included in the ES2 procurement follow-on. This procurement will be issued as a competitive solicitation, and all offers will be evaluated. This extension is a unique situation necessitated by the delay in the ES2 procurement.